

**Andrew Jackson to Frances Walton Pope, June 8, 1829,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO MRS. F. POPE.**

Washington, June 8, 1829.

*Dear Madam,* Your letter of the 30th ultto. has been received, and I embrace the first leisure moment since, to explain to you the reasons which produced the removal of Mr Hawkins. Acting upon the information Contained in your first letter on the subject, I felt a pleasure in the supposition that he could be retained without violating a proper regard for the duties of my office, or for the opinion of the great body of the people interested in that which he filled. This pleasure I assure you, madam, was heightened by the respect which I entertained for your wishes; and it was not without much pain that I felt constrained to act upon the belief that you had mistaken his true character. Unquestioned authority has been lodged in the department of the Postmaster General for the assertion that Mr Hawkins habits disqualify him, in a great degree, for the personal discharge of the duties of the office, and that he had been in the custom from this cause, of intrusting its keys to an individual, obnoxious to the community in many points of view. an extract of the memorial on this subject I inclose for your satisfaction

I have thus candidly stated the considerations which compelled me to approve of the removal of Mr. Hawkins; and hope that you will have no difficulty in reconciling them to a sincere indulgence of those sentiments of friendship and respect, which are due from me both to yourself, and to your distinguished husband.

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It is a painful duty to be the instrument of lessening the resources of a family so amiable as that of Mr Hawkins; but when the public good calls for it, it must be performed. As a private individual, it would give me the greatest happiness to alleviate their distresses, but as a public officer, I cannot devote to this object the interests of the Country

Accept the assurance of my great respect and Esteem, and believe me D'r madam yr mo obdt. Servt.